

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 309883  
ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-06 TRSE-00 /029 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/RDBELT/AML  
APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/RDBELT  
NEA/EX RPAULK (DRAFT)  
SSA/HROLAND (PHONE)  
TREASURY MLANGIER (INFO)  
----- 107770 /44

P 231542Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS STATE 309883

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT: FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM IN LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 8635 (B) BEIRUT 8145

1. DEPARTMENT AND TREASURY ARE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO RESUME DISBURSING FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS TO BEIRUT, EITHER BY A PARTIAL PROGRAM AS MENTIONED REF B OR BY A FULL PROGRAM AS INDICATED IN REF A. IS OUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT THE EMBASSY, IN BEIRUT 8635, IS REQUESTING A FULL RESUMPTION OF THE FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM IN LEBANON? THE DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF LEBANESE BENEFICIARIES AND THE EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO ASSIST THEM ASAP. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID REPEATING THE RECENT SITUATION WHERE THE EMBASSY WAS FORCED TO RETAIN HUNDREDS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 309883

OF CHECKS FOR PERSONS WHO COULD NOT PHYSICALLY COME TO THE EMBASSY FOR THEM.

2. TO BETTER EVALUATE THE CURRENT STATE OF THE FB PROGRAM IN LEBANON AND THE ASSISTANCE THE POST WILL REQUIRE IN RE-INSTITUTING THE PROGRAM, THE EMBASSY IS ASKED TO COMMENT

ON THE FOLLOWING: (A) TO WHAT EXTENT AND IN WHAT AREAS ARE

NATIONAL POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES RESTORED? (B) ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHECKS STILL ON HAND AND BENEFICIARIES STILL RESIDENT IN LEBANON? (C) DOES THE POST HAVE FBU FILES AND IS THERE SECURE STORAGE FOR THE EXPECTED 400 OR MORE MONTHLY CHECKS? (D) WILL THE POST'S REDUCED AMERICAN AND LOCAL STAFF BE SUFFICIENT FOR CHECK DISTRIBUTION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES? (E) DOES THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION PERMIT LARGE NUMBERS OF BENEFICIARIES TO CALL AT THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR CHECKS?

3. POST SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF ADEQUATE HOUSING, MEDICAL FACILITIES, PROPER SCHOOLING, FOOD SUPPLY AND OTHER NECESSARY SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THE RESTAFFING OF THE EMBASSY WILL PROBABLY BE A DELIBERATE PROCESS WHICH MAY REQUIRE THAT PERSONNEL BE ASSIGNED TO BEIRUT IN PHASED STAGES AS LOCAL CONDITIONS PERMIT. THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO REINSTITUTE FULL SCALE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS IN A SHORT TIME FRAME. THE PROBLEMS NOTED ABOVE WILL BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER EXCHANGE BETWEEN DEPT AND EMBASSY.  
ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE309883  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SCS/RDBELT/AML  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760471-0262  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761216/aaaaanoy.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SCSE  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 BEIRUT 8635, 77 BEIRUT 8145  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** CFED  
**To:** BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006